

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

The Protector's Pen

*King's Lynn
under siege*

**Cromwell window
Rochdale**

*The English
harquebusier's pott*

**History of
Parliament**

Tangye Collection

Association News

AGM 2023

Schools Conference 2023

Cromwell Day 2022

Study Day 2022

News & Events

In the press

Book reviews

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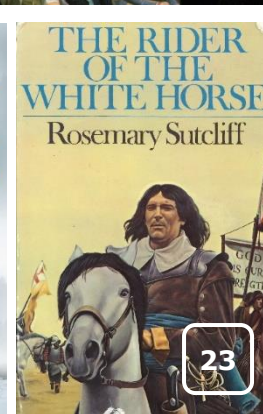
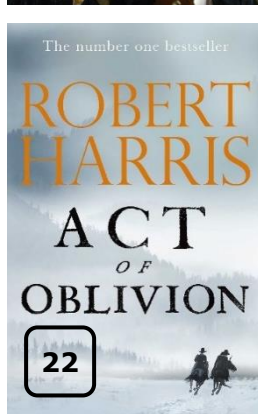
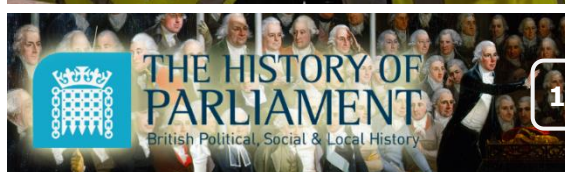
Inside this issue

Notes from the Chair	3
Notes from Council	3
Association News	
- AGM 2023	4
- Postgraduate research grants	4
- Book prize winners	4
- Cromwell Day 2022	5
- Education news	5
- Study Day 2022	5
King's Lynn under siege	6
Postgraduate research grant 2021	9
Cromwell window restored	10
Cataloguing Cromwell	12
Outcomes of The Adventurers project	14
Cromwell Oratorio	15
The English harquebusier's pott	16
The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1640–1660	18
Covent Garden	20
Famous People: Inigo Jones	20
Cromwell Curator's corner	21
Book Reviews	
- Act of Oblivion	22
On my bookshelf	23
Twitterbox	11 & 15
Quiz and Events	24
In the Press	
- Cromwell and Ireland	8
- Eastbourne shipwreck	14
- Exhibitions	14
- Channel 5: No Place Like Home	17
- The Letters, Writings and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell	23
- Oliver Cromwell rare letter	24
- Coleshill archaeological find	24

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Lord Protector and Two Kings,
Rochdale Town Hall



The Protector's Pen is the newsletter of The Cromwell Association. Published twice a year and distributed to our membership, it is also available on our website in the members area. If additional copies are required, to help promote the Association and our work, please contact our Chair.

The Association is governed by elected officers and Council members. For all matters relating to:

- subscriptions – contact our treasurer, Geoffrey Bush – finance@olivercromwell.org
- changes of address and email – contact our membership secretary, Paul Robbins – membership@olivercromwell.org
- all other matters – contact our chair, John Goldsmith – chair@olivercromwell.org

Full mailing addresses for these officers can also be found on your membership card.

President	:	Peter Gaunt
Chair	:	John Goldsmith
Treasurer	:	Geoffrey Bush
Membership Secretary	:	Paul Robbins



www.olivercromwell.org



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All opinions expressed in *The Protector's Pen* are the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Association.

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Copy date for the next issue: **14 June 2023**

Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the spring edition of *The Protector's Pen*

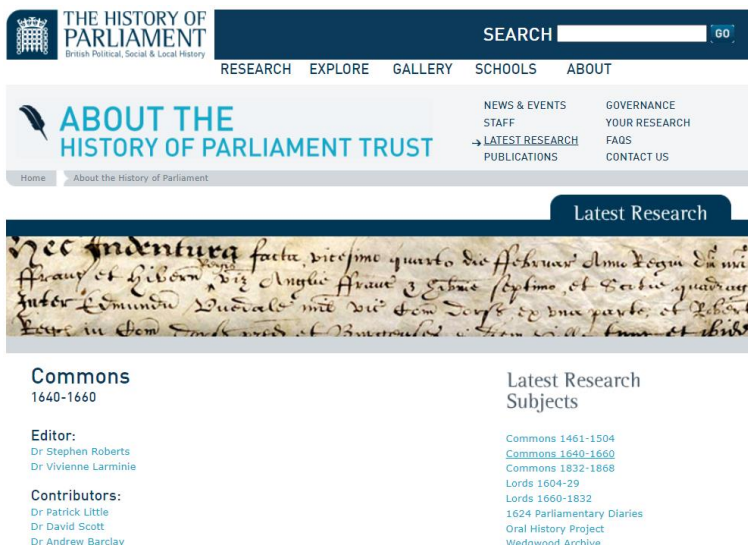
Last time in this column I commented on the remarkable coincidence of two major projects relating to the civil war coming to fruition at the same time, the publication of the new edition of *The Letters, Writings and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell* and the Civil War Petitions project. They are about to be joined by a third, which outdoes the other two by some margin, in terms of its size, scale and scope.

The History of Parliament Trust is a body that I suspect is little known beyond the boundaries of Westminster and the world of professional historians. The genesis of the Trust dates back to before the Second World War. Unlike the similarly monumental objectives of the *Victoria County History* series, few local historians, or libraries, will be very familiar with its work. In this issue Patrick Little, my predecessor as Chair of the Association, describes the forthcoming publication in nine (!) volumes of the *History of Parliament: The House of Commons, 1640–1660*. Note that this work only covers the history of the Commons during this period; work on the House of Lords is still in hand. It is a huge achievement and many congratulations to those involved, both historians and politicians, in this endeavour to create a scholarly history of Parliament. In October the Association's Study Day will focus on this new publication with a range of speakers from the Trust. Full details will appear in the next issue of *The Protector's Pen*, but in the meantime put 14th October in your diary.

It would be fair, as always, to describe the contents of this edition of *The Protector's Pen* as eclectic. They range from a detailed description of the civil war defences of King's Lynn, and the history of the 'Roundhead' helmet to an account of the library of the great Cromwellian collector Richard Tangye, and the restoration of a Victorian stained-glass window featuring Cromwell, in the municipal palace that is Rochdale Town Hall; from the actual events of the 17th century to the cult of Cromwell in the 19th century. We also have news of a new piece of choral music, the *Cromwell Oratorio*, and a review of Robert Harris's *Act of Oblivion* which uses the persecution of the Regicides as its setting. Still in the 21st century, the history of the civil war, and Oliver Cromwell, continues to fascinate both professional and amateur historians, as well as the general public. Long may it continue.

John Goldsmith

Chair
chair@olivercromwell.org



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Latest Research

Commons 1640-1660

Editor:
Dr Stephen Roberts
Dr Vivienne Larmine

Contributors:
Dr Patrick Little
Dr David Scott
Dr Andrew Barclay

Latest Research Subjects

Commons 1461-1504
Commons 1640-1660
Commons 1832-1868
Lords 1604-29
Lords 1660-1832
1624 Parliamentary Diaries
Oral History Project
Wedgwood Archive

If you have an email address, but haven't already given it to us, please can you send your address to membership@olivercromwell.org to enable us to keep in touch with you. Thank you.

Notes from Council

Since the last issue of *The Protector's Pen* Council has met twice; as a hybrid meeting in October and a wholly online meeting in January. As with all organisations our agendas have some necessarily routine content, with reports from Council members on their areas of responsibility and both reviewing past activities and planning future ones. An overview of our year is contained in the Annual Report enclosed with this mailing.

Particular points of interest, which may not otherwise be mentioned in the newsletter include:

- Our monument at Marston Moor is in need of attention as there is some damage to its fabric. Our Treasurer Geoffrey Bush has taken responsibility for commissioning the necessary repair work which was agreed at the January meeting. It is better to undertake minor repairs at this stage, which seem to be on a ten-year cycle, to try and arrest deterioration.
- The project to develop a comprehensive database of British Civil War Memorials (see the last issue of *The Protector's Pen*) is well advanced and a test website showing the location and details of memorials will be trialled this February. The success of the site is largely dependent on content so please do contribute if possible.
- As you will see on page 23 we have eventually been able to offer a discount on the publication of the new, and monumental, edition of *The Letters, Writings and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell* courtesy of the publisher OUP. We are always grateful when publishers, be they large or small, are willing to offer discounts to our members. A set is available for all to consult in the Association's Library in Huntingdon as a result of the gift of a set from our VP Dr Patrick Little, for which we are very grateful.
- Use of the Association's website well exceeds our membership with nearly 70,000 users last year. Due to the wonders of Google Analytics we can also see which pages are most used, and from which countries. It never ceases to amaze.
- Our social media presence also continues to expand thanks to the efforts of Charlotte Young. The problems surrounding Twitter are well documented and if appropriate the Association will consider an alternative platform, or perhaps having a presence on two platforms.
- It is very unlikely that we will be able to hold our Cromwell Day Service in early September at Westminster. With regret Council is investigating alternative options and we hope that we can announce at the AGM where the service will be held. Brief details will then be placed on our website before full details in the next mailing.

Council will meet again in late March, prior to the AGM, and then again in mid-June. If you have any issues you would like to raise please contact either the Secretary or the Chair; all details are on your membership card.

Contact chair@olivercromwell.org or write to:

John Goldsmith
25 Fox's Way
Comberton
Cambridge
CB23 7DL

Association News

AGM 2023

Saturday 22nd April



For the first time in over twenty years the Association will hold its Annual General Meeting in York, a city rich in history, significant in the civil wars, and a wonderful place to spend some time. Through the good offices of the Department of History of the University of York, we will meet at the King's Manor, which is situated in the very heart of York, in Exhibition Square. Originally the Abbot's House of St Mary's Abbey, the King's Manor served the Tudors and Stuarts as a seat of government, becoming residences in the 18th century and a school in the 19th century. The history of the King's Manor weaves a continuous thread in the history of York since medieval times.

The King's Manor is about a 15-minute walk from the railway station, and York is well served by both Park and Ride bus services and car parks (YO1 7EP if by car).



After Henry Cave (British 1779–1836): *The Manor House York*, hand-coloured lithograph by Thomas Sutherland (1785–1838) pub. 1822

Appropriately we will meet in the Huntingdon Room, and assemble for coffee and registration from 10.30am onwards. The Annual General Meeting will start at 11.00am. (As the take-up for attending via Zoom, which has been offered in the last two years, has been so low, we will not be offering that again this year). At the conclusion of the business meeting Dr Hannah Jeans, lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of York, will talk on *Women's Life Writing and the British Civil Wars*.

The morning will finish with a buffet lunch, and provide an opportunity for members to socialise. After lunch there will be a walking tour of civil war York.

Attendance at the AGM and the lecture is free to members. However, the lunch and walking tour both come with a charge to cover costs, and places for both have to be booked in advance. A booking form is enclosed with this mailing along with the meeting papers for the AGM.

The AGM is an important fixture in the Association's calendar and an opportunity to not only hear about what the Association has been doing over the last year, but also what is planned for the coming year. The Council (Trustees) of the Association genuinely does want to hear what members would like, and any suggestions for developing our activities further. Although there are no officers or Council members standing down this year we welcome approaches from members who are interested in helping to run the Association, either by joining Council or in other ways. If you are interested please do contact the chair - chair@olivercromwell.org - to discuss further.

Postgraduate research grants 2022–23

In the last issue of *The Protector's Pen* the Association's research grants for 2022–23 were publicised but disappointingly, as at the end of January, no applications have been forthcoming. Just to remind you these grants, from a total fund of £1,500, are on offer to support postgraduate students undertaking research relevant to our aims and objectives.

If you are a student yourself, have responsibility for postgraduate students, or are otherwise in contact with any whose studies coincide with our interests, please do draw the grants to their attention. Applicants do not have to be members of the Association, and membership does not give applicants an advantage over non-members.

For full details look at our website and follow the link from the home page.

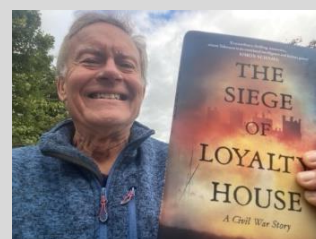
For more information, or to discuss eligibility, contact:
PRG@olivercromwell.org

Book prize winners

The Siege of Loyalty House

by Jessie Childs

Thanks to the generosity of the publishers, Penguin Random House, three Association members received copies of Jessie Childs' *The Siege of Loyalty House*, as winners of the prize draw advertised in the last edition of *The Protector's Pen*. Just another benefit of being an Association member!



Prize winner Clinton Leeks of Houghton-le-Spring

Cromwell Day 2022

Saturday 3rd September

This year the anniversary of Cromwell's death, 3rd September 1658, fell on a Saturday so it was the obvious date for our annual service of commemoration. Over the last few years we have consistently tried to organise the service for the nearest Saturday to the 3rd rather than insist on holding the event on the 3rd regardless of which day of the week this date falls on.

By convention, if possible, an event is organised for members in the morning, followed by the service in the afternoon. Over twenty members took the opportunity to visit the library at the Museum of London, to explore the riches of the Tangye Collection (see page 12 for more details). Thanks to the staff at the Museum for making this possible and for providing a chance to see the collection before the Museum is closed at the end of 2022, prior to its relocation to Smithfield.

It seemed a fitting occasion to combine our service with a blessing of the glass panel installed at the end of 2021 at the nearby St Giles' Cripplegate, to mark the marriage there of Elizabeth Bourchier and Oliver Cromwell in August 1620.

Our service, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Tim Woolley, was attended by nearly 40 people, and the address was given by Paul Lay; this will appear in the next edition of our journal. At the conclusion of the service the Rector, the Reverend Canon Jack Noble, blessed the window which is now firmly part of the fabric of the church.

The church kindly allowed us to serve tea and biscuits in the nave which gave members an opportunity to socialise. We were joined in the afternoon by the winner of the 2022 essay prize competition, Priyanka Menon, from Oundle School, together with her family, and she was warmly

congratulated on her achievement by our president, and essay competition judge, Professor Peter Gaunt. Her essay will be published in the 2023 edition of *Cromwelliana*.

And so another Cromwell Day was successfully marked by the Association. Please do try and join us for this year's service.



Priyanka Menon and
Professor Peter Gaunt

Education News

Schools Conference 2023

NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
CENTRE
NEWARK MUSEUM

The Schools Conference in 2023 will return to the National Civil War Centre in Newark on 20th June. The museum will also open its doors to us for the day and the students will have the chance to see the exhibits during their lunch break, as well as benefiting from the wisdom of our speakers. This year, Professor Peter Gaunt, Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons and Dr Ismini Pells (all Trustees of the Cromwell Association) will be joined by Professor Martyn Bennett, to discuss whether the Levellers were a truly radical movement, whether Charles I was the agent of his own destruction and whether Oliver Cromwell was a military dictator.

The capacity is 100 students and I am confident we will have a full house again this year. Several teachers have told me how illuminating and useful our Schools Conferences are, how first rate the quality of debate, and the students themselves seem in awe at being in the same room as the people whose names they have seen on history text books! For the last few conferences I have had to operate a waiting list and last year one of the teachers suggested we run two conferences every year! If there is anyone out there reading this who might like to run a second one, please step forward!

Schools Essay Prize

Our other education initiative is the essay prize, and for 2023 I am setting a classic A-level type question:

To what extent was the outbreak of civil war in England in 1642 caused by disputes over religion?

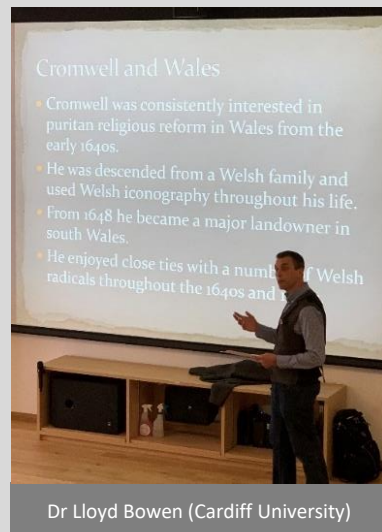
This was suggested by one of the teachers who attended the conference last summer so I am hopeful he will persuade all his students to apply!

Serrie Meakins

Study Day 2022

Saturday 15th October

After a very long gap the Association held an event in Wales, when in mid-October the St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, provided the venue for our annual Study Day. The theme of the day, appropriately, was the civil war in Wales, and attracted an audience of thirty. The majority of those were Association members who had come from far and wide, but we also had some local guests who had picked up on the publicity for the day.



Dr Lloyd Bowen (Cardiff University)

The programme, with a range of excellent speakers, was slightly different to that advertised due to circumstances beyond our control, but thanks to the generosity of those contributing, a full programme of five papers was delivered and all were well received. Three of the papers will be published in the 2023 edition of our journal *Cromwelliana*; the other two, as they have been previously published elsewhere, cannot be included due to copyright issues.

It should be noted, for future reference, that there were complexities in organising an event in a bi-lingual setting. These should perhaps have been anticipated, but they did provide an unexpected challenge. Regardless of the difficulties, St Fagans provided a splendid setting for the day which, due to the cooperation of staff on the ground, meant that all went smoothly.

King's Lynn under siege

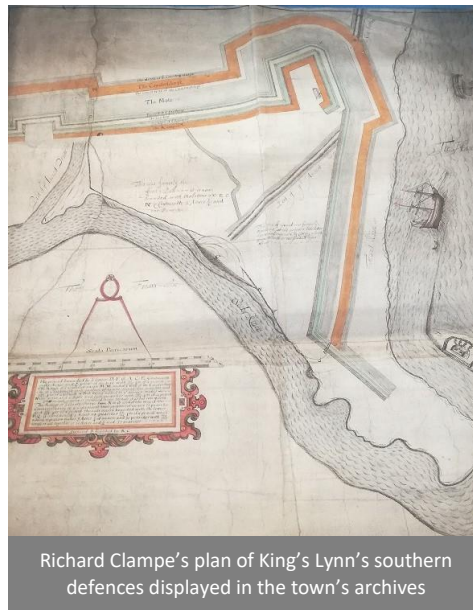
How a small field in north-west Norfolk is changing our understanding of English civil war fortress engineering

The Norfolk town of King's Lynn was never one of England's great medieval walled places. Instead, its fortifications evolved organically. To the west, it was protected by the River Great Ouse, whilst several streams and rivers that flowed through the town were diverted to provide protection to the east and south. Where there were gaps, earth banks topped with wooden palisades were erected, and finally, to control passage in and out of the town, gateways were erected. During the latter years of the Middle Ages, these gates were rebuilt (the South Gate remains a local landmark), and a short stretch of masonry wall was constructed either side of the now demolished East Gate.

The town's decline since its Hanseatic League heyday meant that it was not included in Henry VIII's coastal defence programme of the 1540s, but new fortifications were constructed during the 1580s and 1620s. Whilst no longer one of England's chief ports, it was nevertheless still important to river and coastal shipping.

At the outbreak of the English civil war in 1642, its defences were repaired and improved, although even these proved insufficient to withstand the siege which followed a Royalist coup during the summer of 1643, and in September 1643 the town fell to the Earl of Manchester and the Army of the Eastern Association.

Parliament realised the importance of King's Lynn as a logistical hub. All manner of supplies were brought into the town and then shipped onwards, notably in 1643–4, to the Army of the Eastern Association as it advanced through Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The siege of



Richard Clampe's plan of King's Lynn's southern defences displayed in the town's archives

York in 1644 was supplied through King's Lynn, as was Cromwell's invasion of Scotland in 1650.

Parliament actually authorised the re-fortification of King's Lynn in July 1643, but this scheme was interrupted by the siege. Richard Clampe, a local physician and mathematician was given the job of designing the new fortifications, and his solution was for an earthwork bastioned enceinte (the 17th century equivalent of a town wall punctuated with towers) to completely enclose the town on its north, east, and southern sides. The design was based on the latest continental methods, utilising the principle of defence in depth, employing multiple layers of ramparts, ditches, and moats, transforming the town into the strongest fortress in East Anglia.

The King's Lynn under Siege (KLuS) community archaeology project was formed in January 2018 with the objective of investigating an English civil war siege site. Early on, the project came across

Clampe's plan for the south-western bastion. This detailed plan uses colour to set out the various components of the defences, as well as providing measurements.

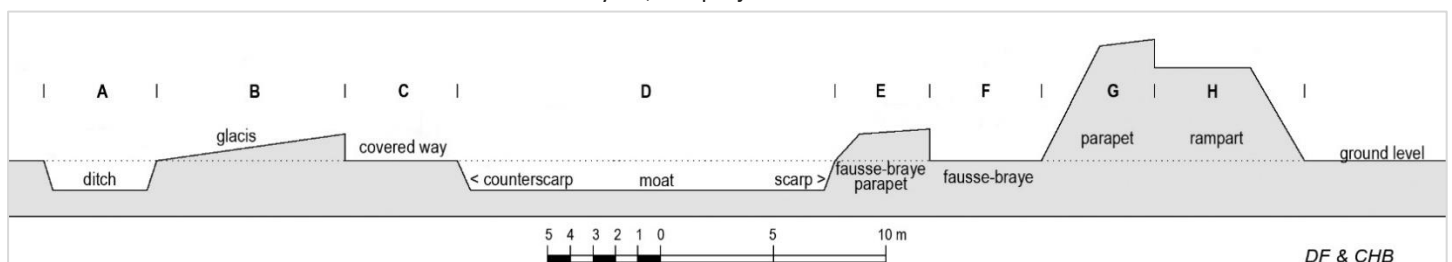
Clampe's plan enabled a scale profile of the fortifications to be drawn:

	Component	Width
A	Outer Ditch	5.029m
B	Glacis	8.381m
C	Covered Way	5.029m
D	Moat	16.763m
E	Parapet of Fausse-Braye	4.19m
F	Fausse-Braye	5.029m
G	Parapet	5.029m
H	Rampart	6.705m
Total Width		56.155m

Yet the south-west bastion itself provided elusive, and the project's first piece of fieldwork, a magnetometry survey of the site in May 2019, was inconclusive.

Wenceslaus Hollar's well known *The Groundplat of Kings Lyn* (c.1645) demonstrates the consistency of the layout of the fortifications, although it doesn't do as much justice to the actual complexity of their design. This plan would be the basis for the maps and plans that followed, and depicts the town following the completion of the post-siege fortifications.

The archaeological potential of the site of the town's north-east bastion was first recognised in January 2020, and in early 2021 plans were drawn up to undertake a non-intrusive investigation of the site, and these plans were submitted to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.



DF & CHB

The profile of the fortifications drawn by Charles Blackwood based on the author's analysis of Clampe's plan (with additional information from Lieutenant-Colonel WG Ross, R.E., 1887). Clampe used perches in his plan and these have been converted into metres. (thanks to Charles Blackwood, Fortress Study Group)



Wenceslaus Hollar's *The Groundplat of Kings Lyn*. This shows King's Lynn c.1645 when the re-fortification was complete. Despite several histories still claiming to the contrary, it does not portray the town at the time of the siege in August/September 1643.

Not long afterwards, the project was contacted by Channel 4's *The Great British Dig* programme which led to a five-day 'dig' in September 2021.



Filming underway during *The Great British Dig* excavation in September 2021. The author (left) is pictured with Hugh Dennis (centre) and the son of the landowner (right).
(photograph Jo Sonnex)

The project was able to bring nearly four years of research to the programme, and this ensured that *The Great British Dig* trenches were positioned as accurately as possible.

If Clampe's plan was proved to be accurate, then King's Lynn's fortifications would be the most sophisticated defences built anywhere during the British Isles during the 1640s. During the dig, a trench measuring 30m x 1.8m and running approximately east to west was opened. It was discovered that the moat in this part of the fortifications was wider than that planned at the south-western bastion (20m compared with 16.76m); but the

'cuts' for the fausse-braye (a second lower outer rampart) and main rampart matched almost exactly. Finally, the discovery of a wooden post and cross-piece at the (outer) base of the rampart suggests that the rampart was constructed around some sort of wooden framework.

The landowners generously invited the project to return, and in March 2022 a geophysical survey of the site was undertaken. Whilst the 2021 investigation focused on investigating the width of the fortifications, 2022 would concentrate on



The main *Great British Dig* trench showing the 'cuts' from the various components of the fortifications

the line of the rampart, both in terms of finding more clues as to how the rampart was constructed, and also its actual thickness, although given the proven accuracy of Clampe's plan, we have little reason to doubt that it was in the region of 12m thick. The project was also curious to learn more about what happened to the fortifications after the civil wars.

The length of the eastern bastion face from the flank to the salient angle is approximately 60.5m. But this itself presents us with a further question: given the width of the fortifications, the 90° turn where the south-north course of the fortifications turns to run east-west would have occupied a large area. Unfortunately, there simply was not the time to explore this in 2022, so this is something for the future.

Due to the unprecedented high temperatures during July 2022, plans were radically altered, and any thoughts of digging trenches by hand were quickly abandoned. The main trench was located alongside the line of the 2021 trench, and the rampart post discovered then was uncovered once more. A second rampart post was discovered (the distance between the two was 3.35m).

The discovery of two posts in alignment at the foot of the rampart suggest a method of construction of an English civil war period rampart. Simply digging a ditch and piling the excavated soil behind it to form a rampart is insufficient to form a structure that would be strong enough or weatherproof. In the absence of evidence of internal frameworks or revetments, the theory is that the rampart was constructed as a series of 'steps', with the posts supporting simple planking which in turn would support a level of hammered clay. Using this method, the rampart would be constructed as steps, and when the required height had been achieved, finished with a facing of turf.

The research demonstrated the consistency between Clampe's plan and subsequent maps of the town, and that his plan for the south-west bastion was indeed repeated around the entire circuit.

The investigations also showed that the fortifications were not removed following
(cont'd)



An ariel view of the north-east bastion site during the 2022 excavation. The shape and size of the bastion is clear.
a) is the approximate location of the main 2021 trench
b) is the 2022 trench
c) is the 'glacis' trench (2021)
d) is the 'Long Pond' – this is the best surviving part of Clampe's moat, although until our investigations, locals considered it to be of Victorian origin.

the end of the civil war, and more than 70 years later Daniel Defoe noted how strong the fortifications still were.

Instead, the fortifications lasted until the end of the 18th century when the clay from the fortifications was harvested to make bricks (mature clay makes better bricks than new clay). William Faden's 1797 *Plan of the Town of Lynn* shows the



The July 2022 excavation in progress. One of the rampart-posts lies covered by the upturned black tray by the bucket to the far left.

existence of brick kilns in two of the town's bastions, and the 2022 dig found evidence of brickmaking on the site.

2023 is the 380th anniversary of the siege of King's Lynn and discussion is currently underway as how best to mark this event. This is likely to take the form of a living history event. An exciting recent discovery in the National Archives of a document naming nine of the town's forts and bastions, including one protecting the town's western approaches, adds to the evidence. There is much still to uncover.

For more information about King's Lynn under Siege, e-mail kingslynnundersiege@outlook.com

David Flintham
Fortress Study Group,
Committee Member



Further reading:

<https://vauban.co.uk/king-s-lynn-under-siege>

<https://www.battlefieldstrust.com/event.asp?EventID=1187>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F29Mu_sjQBA

A civilised conversation about Cromwell and Ireland

The lack of coverage in the media about the new volumes of Cromwell's Letters and Speeches has been disappointing, but they were mentioned in a feature in *The Guardian* (26.11.22) about Tom Reilly's work on Cromwell and Drogheda. This in turn prompted GB News Channel to set up a piece with Tom Reilly and Professor Ronald Hutton on *Sunday with Michael Portillo* (18.12.22) to discuss the evidence for what actually happened in Drogheda.

Portillo's introduction referred to the new volumes and asked the question of Reilly as to whether or not Cromwell was guilty of war crimes. For the last thirty years Tom Reilly has sought to put, as he sees it, the record straight. His argument is that there is no evidence that there was mass slaughter of civilians, and he is frustrated by the way the academic establishment has ignored his findings. To a significant extent, and to his surprise, he found that Hutton was in agreement with much of what he contended. Both agreed that the version of history that depicts Cromwell as a mass murderer of innocents was not only inaccurate, but also has poisoned and continues to poison Anglo-Irish relations.

Reilly cogently argued that the account of civilian slaughter rests on the account of Thomas A Wood, as written by his brother Anthony, which didn't appear in the public domain until the late 18th century, and could not therefore be counted as reliable evidence. Unfortunately, Portillo, aware of his audience, did not want to pursue this further and drew the debate to close.

In winding up the discussion Portillo commented how refreshing it was to have a 'civilised conversation' about what was a fascinating subject. Though not normally a viewer of GB News I can only agree.

John Goldsmith

The broadcast can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w8wEwtGdVc>

It lasts c.10min and starts at c.1hr 10mins into the programme.



Postgraduate research grant 2021

My travel to Yorkshire and Scotland was conducted as part of the research for my project on, 'Sex, gender, and political culture during the Cromwellian Protectorates, 1653–1659' and was facilitated by support from the Cromwell Association Postgraduate Research Grant.

Driving up to Leeds for the first leg of my trip was straightforward, although the initial part of the journey reminded me how isolated Norwich is from the north! The Royal Armouries are home to the UK's national collection of arms and armour and have an incredible breadth of objects on display across five galleries, spectacular and well worth a visit. My interest focused primarily on a portrait of Oliver Cromwell which belonged to Thomas Chaloner, a signatory to Charles I's death warrant, and a mortuary sword whose provenance is uncertain but plausibly thought to have belonged to Oliver himself. It was my good fortune to be met by assistant curator Keith Downen, a member of the Cromwell Association and published expert on 17th century arms and armour who gave me invaluable information about the reality of the armour worn and the significance of that depicted in portraits. I was holding the sword myself when Keith told me that it was possibly the one used at Drogheda, a thought which turned my stomach.



Keith Downen assistant curator of European armour, the Royal Armouries, Leeds

After a drive across the beautiful Scottish Borders and through a winding glen I

reached my next stop, near Selkirk. Bowhill House is the magnificent country home of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and amongst many other works of art houses a renowned collection of miniature portraits. One of the most prized is Samuel Cooper's iconic



Samuel Cooper's miniature portrait of Oliver Cromwell on display at Bowhill House

unfinished masterpiece of Oliver Cromwell: one of very few portraits painted from life and likely to be the most accurate representation of his appearance. Less well known but of exceptional interest for me were several portraits of other Cromwell family members and their contemporaries. I am grateful to Rory Powell, Bowhill's House Manager, for taking the time to show me these treasures. Bowhill House is open throughout August.



Pollock House, home of the National Trust for Scotland

On to the outskirts of Glasgow next and Pollok House, incidentally the location for a discussion which led to the founding of the National Trust for Scotland. Here I saw another portrait of Oliver Cromwell which

provided an interesting comparison to the one I had viewed in Leeds as it was a near identical composition but with a different face!

The final leg of my journey took me to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in the west end of Glasgow. Here is the fascinating portrait of Frances, the youngest of the Cromwell children, painted by the Scottish artist John Michael Wright. What is outstanding when viewing this portrait is Frances' independence and determination to be painted the way she wanted to be seen. Viewing it up close revealed to me several details that were unnoticed in print or online reproductions.

Now I am home and engaged in deeper analysis of these portraits. In our time when photographs of our political leaders are only a click away on our phones, computers or televisions, we must have a vastly different relationship with images of power. Seeing these portraits in person has impressed upon me how important they must have been for holding a depiction of the authority they represented. Furthermore, seeing these images has given me new ideas for directions in which to take my analysis.

I am extremely grateful to the Cromwell Association for supporting my research.

Lisa Nunn



Lisa Nunn with the portrait of Frances Cromwell by John Michael Wright

Cromwell window restored

Of all the settings for stained or painted windows that have images of Oliver Cromwell as their subject, few, if any, can rival the magnificence of Rochdale Town Hall. A veritable municipal palace.

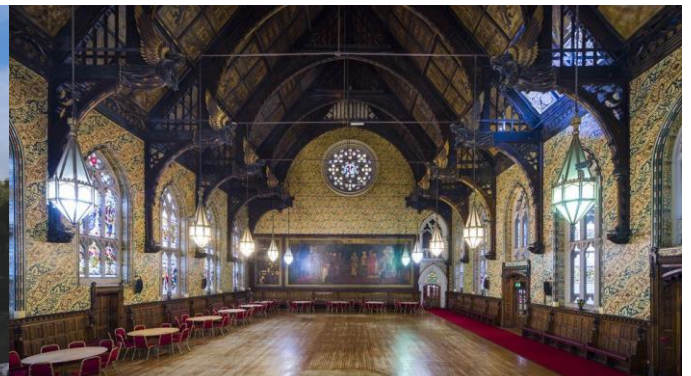
Rochdale Town Hall was designed by the architect William Crossland who won a competition held by the town council in 1864. Taking seven years to build, running significantly over budget and opening in 1871, it has been a much-admired public building ever since and is Grade 1 listed.

The building was required to fulfil several civic functions: town council meeting rooms, a base for the mayor, an exchange for wool trading, a police station and cells, a residence for the police commander and a fire station for the town. The original clock tower by Crossland was a mighty 73 metres high, but burned down in 1883 and was replaced by the one you see now which was designed by Alfred Waterhouse.

Although built during the high gothic period, Crossland created a unique set of spaces with craftsmen who were as much part of the emerging Arts and Crafts movement as they were masters of neo-Gothic form. The building has a series of wonderfully carved stone interiors such as the Exchange and Grand Staircase and a series of smaller more intimate rooms where the plaster is painted with flora and fauna including a beautiful gold leaf bird motif.

Crossland made great use of timber, with many rooms panelled at lower level and with highly decorative timber ceilings. It is Crossland's use of stained glass, made by the London firm of Heaton, Butler and Baynes, that probably makes both him and the building so well known. The grand

staircase has nine magnificent full-height stained glass windows, displaying Rochdale's trading links with the world and which, with the stone vaulted ceilings, create an exhilarating feeling of a cathedral. The Great Hall has a series of 11 large windows depicting the crowned monarchs of Great Britain with Victoria and Albert's portrait forming the centrepiece of two rose windows at either end. Unlike the sequence of monarchs overlooking New Palace Yard at the Palace of Westminster, Cromwell makes the cut. He is featured in a window with an image of Charles I to his left, and Charles II to his right. The portrait of Oliver Cromwell has long been commented on and is sometimes seen as symbolic of Rochdale's radical politics.



Rochdale Town Hall: Clockwise from top left: Town Hall, The Great Hall, entrance hall, restored Cromwell window, * grand staircase
(courtesy Rochdale Borough Council) *see front cover



Sadly, overtime, the town hall proved very challenging to maintain; it needed internally changing to suit the council's evolving needs and by the 2010s was not fully used and in a state where significant restoration and repair was required. In 2018 the council was successful in securing a National Heritage Lottery Fund award of just under £9m which gave everyone the confidence that a project of full-scale restoration was possible. The council has also been able to tap into a government decarbonisation fund which has enabled the building to be made more sustainable.

Working in partnership with a range of organisations, and offering training and volunteer programmes and significant apprenticeships, the work has been ongoing for over 18 months with a scheduled completion date of autumn this year.

The Cromwell window was selected as a special case in need of conservation. It was conserved by York Glaziers Trust Studios and was worked on in York for six months last year. The painting was cleaned and stabilised and repaired where necessary. The window was returned to the building with the benefit of internally ventilated environmental protective glazing (often known as 'isothermal glazing'), thereby inhibiting, if not entirely preventing, further deterioration of the painted layers and glass from environmental elements. This preserves the panels in their original configuration and architectural setting, but isolates the glazing in a museum-like climate. This is the most effective long-term solution available.

Given the challenging times faced by local government, Rochdale Borough Council should be congratulated on their commitment to



Conservation work in progress (York Glaziers Trust)



preserving their wonderful Town Hall, and most of all for ensuring that the Cromwell window is secure for the future.

Based on copy from, and with thanks to:

Emma Robinson

Senior Project Officer, Rochdale Development Agency

See also:

<https://www.rochdaleonline.co.uk/news-features/2/news-headlines/148552/stained-glass-window-depicting-oliver-cromwell-reinstalled-at-rochdale-town-hall-after-being-restored>

<https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/events/event/20/rochdale-town-hall-virtual-tour>



Conservation work in progress (Rochdale Online, 18 Oct 2022)

Twitterbox

A few select tweets from a quick search of Twitter...



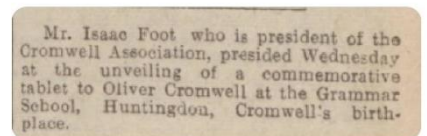
Cromwell Association
@Cromwellorg

#DidYouKnow that one of Oliver Cromwell's granddaughters is buried in Bloomsbury? The grave of Anna Gibson, 6th daughter of Richard Cromwell, is in St George's Gardens, a former graveyard turned public park.



Cromwell Association
@Cromwellorg

#onthisday in 1938 Isaac Foot, the first President of the Cromwell Association, unveiled a plaque at Huntingdon Grammar School, where Cromwell was a student. The school is appropriately now the home of @MuseumCromwell. Image @BNArchive



The Cromwell Museum retweeted



Sarah Dixwell
@SarahDixwell

Here's direct evidence of the regicides of Charles I, who hid in Hadley, Massachusetts, right on Route 9. **#englishcivilwars** **#regicides** **#britishhistory**



Cataloguing Cromwell

The audit of the books from the Tangye Collection of Cromwelliana at the Museum of London



The Tangye Collection at the Museum of London is a large assemblage of Cromwelliana collected by Cornish engineer Sir Richard Tangye (1833–1906).

The 1200 items roughly contain 400 paintings, 80 historical artefacts and 700 rare books and manuscripts. The latter, held in the museum's [Library](#), is an exhaustive bibliography regarding the English civil war, the Commonwealth and Protectorate, and the life of Oliver Cromwell. The collection includes volumes such as the Cromwell's family bible; Anne Cromwell's original manuscript music book; letters of Charles I and Oliver Cromwell by their own hand; and the only known copy of the *Journal of Cromwell's House of Lords from its inauguration to its last sitting (1657–59)*. A manuscript volume of sermons from the early 15th century believed to have been in Charles I's library is the museum's oldest book.

Museum of London 'biographer' Francis Sheppard tells us that the Tangye collection 'had been formed with enthusiasm rather than discernment' (*The Treasury of London's Past*, 1991), started in 1875 and enhanced in 1889 with the purchase of the John de Kewer Williams (1817–1895) [personal collection of Cromwelliana](#). After Tangye's death the collection passed to his eldest son, Harold Lincoln Tangye (1866–1935), who presented it to the London Museum in 1913 after the request by Lewis Harcourt, at the time Secretary of State for the Colonies and also a trustee at the museum.

The gift was only made public in March 1914, after the museum had relocated from Kensington Palace to Lancaster House, and was not fully catalogued until 1946. Even though the original intention was to allocate it a dedicated gallery, the museum's space constraints have never allowed for a full display of the collection. In fact, for many years, the Tangye books were kept in the director's office, maybe giving the space that so-desired 'antiquarian look' museum offices ought to have!



Part of the Tangye Collection of books

The audit

As per the rest of the museum's collection stores, the Library is currently being audited in preparation for the move to the new location of the museum. Expected to last several years, the exercise includes the complete re-cataloguing of both the general reference and the special collections, to international book cataloguing standards.

Although the audit was started in April 2021, preparation work was carried out during several lockdowns in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The remote work was an opportunity to prepare the existing basic bibliographical records in the library management system before work on the physical collection could take place. The circa 520 monographs in the Tangye Collection were upgraded during a period of blended work in autumn 2021.

The project included:

1. Implementing international book cataloguing standards (MARC21, RDA). Broadly speaking, these rules regulate what information goes where in the record and how this is entered. A lot of attention is therefore paid to the detailed recording of the books' title(s), author(s), publication details, physical description, and edition, while following rules on punctuation, spacing and spelling.
2. Implementing the Library of Congress Authorities 'controlled vocabulary', used to index, for example, subjects or authorships. The used of preferred words in the bibliographical record (together with the listing of variant terms in the index) assists with the retrieval of content by the user. As an example, Figures 1 and 2 show the standard and editing views of the index entry for Oliver Cromwell in the library management system. The Library of Congress Authorities give 'Cromwell, Oliver, 1599–1658' as the authorised form of the name; variants are also given and indexed to redirect to (See from) or broaden (See also from) the search results. The reader therefore is able to search the library catalogue using a selection of terms and still receive returns, being automatically redirected by the authorised or controlled vocabulary in the index.
3. Improved recording of copy-specific details, such as provenance, bookplates and marginalia (if present) and binding information. These details are often unique to a given volume so become key to better understanding the history of the volume. We have upgraded books previously owned by

Sir Richard Burton, John De Kewer Williams and Horace Walpole, among many more. This information is recorded in the MARC21 note fields 561, 562 and 563, and is recorded with the library's unique ID code. (Figures 3 and 4).

This set of data will be expanded once the physical audit of the special collections starts (2023). Being able to catalogue directly from the book will allow us to confirm information such as the measurements or the actual pagination of the volume (as opposed to that of the edition), missing plates, previously unrecorded marginalia, etc.

The library audit is also allowing us to find items never previously added to the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), the British Library's comprehensive listing of English publications published before 1801. During the remote data work with the Tangye monographs, 30 new volumes were added to ESTC with another 25 not yet recorded as further examination is needed because several of the latter could be unique to UK libraries or ESTC. Examples include a 1659 edition of *Reliquae Sacrae Carolinae*, a 1611 edition of *Coryat's crudities* (General Fairfax's own copy), and a 1657 edition of Allestree's *The whole duty of man*.

Improving awareness

The enhanced cataloguing of the Tangye volumes should assist with the browsability and discovery of their records, allowing the library catalogue user to search by the title, author, subject, publication date, even the publisher or words used under general notes. To further assist researchers, a [special search](#) has been set up in the catalogue that brings all the Tangye volumes together via the common stem of their accession numbers (46.78).

Pers. Name Heading: Cromwell, Oliver, 1599-1658
Heading Usage: Main Added Entry, Subject Added Entry

See From - Pers. Name: Cromwell, Lieutenant-General, 1599-1658
See From - Pers. Name: Crumwell, Lieutenant-General, 1599-1658
See From - Pers. Name: Crumwell, Oliver, 1599-1658
See From - Pers. Name: Cromwel, Oliver, 1599-1658
See From - Pers. Name: Cromwel, Colonel, 1599-1658
See From - Pers. Name: Oliver, Lord Cromwel, 1599-1658
See From - Pers. Name: Crumwel, Oliver, Lieutnant-General, 1599-1658
SA From - Corporate Name: Chief executive of: England and Wales. Lord Protector (1653-1658 : O. Cromwell)
SA From - Corporate Name: Chief executive of: Ireland. Lord Lieutenant (1649-1650 : Cromwell)

Variable Fields

Add Tag (ALT + END)

			100	1	aCromwell, Oliver, d1599-1658
			400	1	aCromwell, cLieutenant-General, d1599-1658
			400	1	aCrumwell, cLieutenant-General, d1599-1658
			400	1	aCrumwell, Oliver, d1599-1658
			400	1	aCromwel, Oliver, d1599-1658
			400	1	aCromwel, cColonel, d1599-1658
			400	0	aOliver, cLord Cromwel, d1599-1658
			400	1	aCrumwel, Oliver, cLieutnant-General, d1599-1658
			510	1	iChief executive of: aEngland and Wales. bLord Protector (1653-1658 : O. Cromwell)
			510	1	iChief executive of: alreland. bLord Lieutenant (1649-1650 : Cromwell)

Figures 1 and 2: standard and editing views of the index entry for Oliver Cromwell in the library

Work is also taking place towards the Museum of London's library joining the National Bibliographic Knowledgebase (NBK). Our records would then be shared in their [Library Hub Discover](#), together with the library collections from over 180 UK and Ireland academic bodies.

It is hoped that all this work will assist with raising the general awareness of the Tangye Collection, particularly the monographs and manuscripts. The Museum of London is now closed to external researchers in preparation for the move to our new museum location.

Nonetheless, we still aim to reach that expert audience who may feel inspired to explore the Tangye Collection further. We can be contacted by email and will endeavour to assist remotely as much as possible.

Lluís Tembleque Terés,
Librarian, Museum of London

library@museumoflondon.org.uk

	561	aDaniel Wytenback, former owner, 1796 5UkLoM
	561	aBookplate of Samuel Gardner 5UkLoM
	561	aDr Samuel Parr, former owner 5UkLoM
	563	aBound in vellum 5UkLoM
	562	aTitle page torn and partly destroyed 5UkLoM
	563	aBound in contemporary vellum 5UkLoM

Figures 3 and 4: examples of MARC21 note fields 561, 562 and 563.



Lluís Tembleque Terés discussing the collection with Association members



Shipwreck off Eastbourne identified as 17th century Dutch warship

The wreck, which lies 32m under water, had been known as the 'unknown wreck off Eastbourne' after it was discovered by divers in 2019. It has now been identified as the Dutch warship *Klein Hollandia*, which was built in 1656.

In 1672, the ship was part of the squadron escorting the *Smyrna* fleet while sailing from the Mediterranean into the English Channel, en route to the Netherlands. Passing the Isle of Wight, the squadron was attacked by an English squadron under Admiral Holmes, resulting in the *Klein Hollandia* being damaged and its commander killed. It sank shortly afterwards, with both English and Dutch sailors on board.



Two guns found at the site of the sunken *Klein Hollandia* (credit - Cathy de Lara)

BBC News website, 27 January 2023

The story of the *Klein Hollandia* featured on *Digging for Britain* on BBC2 on Sunday 29 January. Available on BBC iPlayer.

Outcomes of The Adventurers project

In the Spring 2019 edition of *The Protector's Pen* (Vol 21, Issue 1, p9) there was a brief account of a project which set out to tell the story of the Scottish prisoners captured at Dunbar and their work on the Great Level of the Cambridgeshire Fens in 1651–52.

The project created a great deal of local interest and Peter Daldorph, who led the historical research, has now kindly shared with the Association all of the outputs to read, watch, listen and share. He suggests that you look at a YouTube video first, <https://youtu.be/2p2TyK90KRM> and everything else will then make more sense. A history walk on the Fen Edge is still to be completed, and he will let us know when it is available.

Many thanks to Peter, the funders, and everybody else associated with this work which adds considerably to resources available on this fascinating aspect of the civil wars.

Transcriptions of the Proceedings of the Adventurers and summary: all six pdf documents have been uploaded on to the internet archive and can be downloaded from the link below:

<https://archive.org/details/proceedings-of-the-adventurers-summary-and-index>

Three audio plays can be downloaded from the internet archive:

<https://archive.org/details/scottish-soldier> or streamed on SoundCloud at:

<https://soundcloud.com/peter-daldorph>

GIS map layers: these can be downloaded here:

<https://www.wildhead.co.uk/the-adventurers>



Exhibitions

14 October 2022 – 16 April 2023 Museum of London Docklands

Executions

Explore how public executions shaped Londoners' lives and the city's landscape in a major exhibition

The Museum of London Docklands exhibition *Executions* explores how public executions were an undeniable feature of city life for over 700 years. Many of the objects have rarely been on public display, including:

- King Charles I's execution vest
- The debtors' door of Newgate Prison
- A 300-year-old bed sheet embroidered with human hair
- The gibbet cage

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands/whats-on/exhibitions/executions>

2 March 2023 – 14 January 2024

The Van de Veldes: Greenwich, Art and the Sea

From across the sea, an art revolution is coming. Discover the art of the Van de Veldes at the Queen's House

ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH

In 1673 two Dutch artists travelled to England at the request of Charles II.

Now, 350 years on from their first arrival in England, the Queen's House will once again become a home for the Van de Veldes.

The Van de Veldes: Greenwich, Art and the Sea will follow the journey of these émigré artists, and explore how they changed the course of British maritime art.

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/queens-house/van-de-veldes-art-exhibition>

Twitterbox (cont'd)

A few select tweets from a quick search of Twitter...



Andrea Zuvich
@17thCenturyLady

Wreck of #17thCentury Swedish Warship Discovered

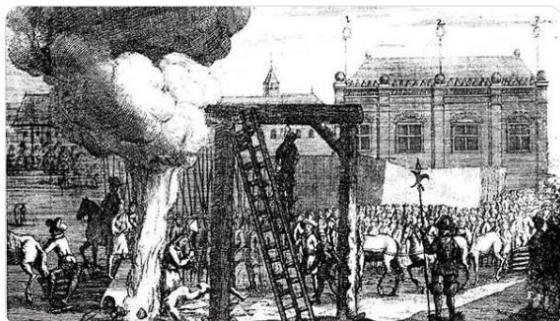


usni.org

Wreck of 17th-Century Swedish Warship Discovered | Naval History Magazine...
Marine archaeologists from Vrak—the Museum of Wrecks in Stockholm, Sweden—have discovered the wreck of the 17th-century warship Äpplet ...

The Cromwell Museum
@MuseumCromwell

#OnThisDay 30 January 1661, the exhumed corpses of Oliver Cromwell, Henry Ireton & John Bradshaw were hanged then decapitated at Tyburn in revenge for their part in the execution of Charles I, 11 years before. Their heads were displayed over Westminster Hall. #17thCentury #OTD



Historical Novel Society
@histnovsoc

A painting forgotten behind a cottage door is a #17thcentury treasure worth £20,000 - via @Tatlermagazine



tatler.com

How a painting forgotten behind a cottage door turned out to be a 17th centu...
The 400-year-old hidden treasure will be auctioned this month

Cromwell Oratorio

St Ives Choral Society world premiere of *Cromwell*



St Ives Choral Society (SICS) are very proud to be performing a world premiere of *Cromwell* – an oratorio composed by Tom Randle, with libretto by Nikki Racklin. This piece has been specially written for the choral society, using one of Cambridgeshire's most famous (and divisive) sons as its subject.

One of our main tenets as a charity is to involve ourselves in the wider local community and this special project sees us collaborating with the local secondary school, St Ivo. We are pleased to have their children's choir joining us for the performance – which will certainly do much to reduce the average age of the SICS! We will be accompanied by an intimate chamber orchestra that will employ the very best musicians in the area – this performance will show the very best of what Cambridgeshire has to offer. Portraying Cromwell, we are lucky to have Royal Opera House principal baritone, Grant Doyle.

In addition to *Cromwell*, we are also performing Purcell's masterpiece *Dido and Aeneas* as part of the same programme, and we are pleased to have former Zurich Opera House principal, Julia Riley, singing the role of the doomed Queen of Carthage.

After the devastating effects of the pandemic we wanted to play a small part in getting people back singing (young and old), performing to a public eager to engage in live music again. The double-bill concert date is 18th March 2023 at the Burgess Hall, St Ives. Tickets, price £20, are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society

This is a truly exciting project and one you can be a part of and, if you are able to give, we need your help. We have set up a crowdfunder (see below) where you can find some exciting incentives, so you can play a crucial part in this once-in-a-lifetime performance!

Charne Rochford,
Musical Director SICS

Enter: gofund.me/3be584e9 or scan the QR code above to support



Tom Randle
Composer



Nikki Racklin
Librettist

The English harquebusier's pott

The three-bar helmet or 'lobster pot' must surely be the most recognisable piece of military equipment from the British civil wars. Since the 19th century it has been immortalised in art and film and, together with the buff leather coat, has become inextricably linked with Oliver Cromwell and his famous 'Ironsides'. Simple in design, and largely devoid of any extraneous decoration, the three-bar 'pott' could be produced both cheaply and in large quantities. In fact, so many were made that more three-bar potts survive today than any other piece of 17th century armour.

Sadly though, as with all civil war era arms and armour, these helmets very rarely appear in contemporary works of art. This lack of visual material presents certain problems, not least in establishing the length of time certain styles were in use. Fortunately, many surviving potts are stamped with company and armourers' marks which can provide useful dating evidence. Founded in 1322, the Armourers' Company of London first began to stamp armour with a crown over the letter 'A' in 1631. However, following the execution of Charles I, the Company thought it appropriate to 'appoint a new Marke to Marke Armes which this Court have agreed to be the A and Helmet'. Further dating evidence can also be gleaned from the individual armourer's marks which usually comprise the initials of the individual's first and second names. When taken together, both sets of marks can sometimes date helmets to within a relatively short time period, although this is certainly not a hard and fast rule. As English armour production was centred on London, the three-bar pott would have been considerably more widespread among Parliament's armies, providing

some truth to the popular 'Roundhead' association.

Although widely believed to be uniquely English, the three-bar pott was first developed on the Continent as a variant of the central and eastern European 'zischägge'. Based on the Ottoman *çiçak*, the *zischägge* proved to be ideally suited to the lightly armed cavalry which were rapidly coming to the forefront of European warfare. Typically, these helmets incorporate a single sliding nasal bar which can be secured in place by a screw mounted to the helmet's bowl. However, in some instances this was replaced with a three-bar faceguard, similar in form to the English variant. This particular style appears to have been most popular in the Dutch Republic where it can be found in various works of art from the 1630s. Its introduction into England was probably the result of the large-scale arms trade with the Dutch Republic and also because of the considerable numbers of English veterans who had served in the States' armies during the Eighty Years War.

The earliest type, which remained in use until the latter stages of the First Civil War, comprises a two-part skull joined along a low comb, an elegantly flared single-piece neck-guard embossed to simulate separate plates, a pair of pendent cheekpieces and of course a peak incorporating a face guard of three vertical bars. In common with contemporary Dutch helmets, these helmets feature incised line decoration and deep, (usually) cusped brow plates. As on all harquebusier's potts, the pendent cheekpieces were suspended by a pair of leather straps riveted to the helmet bowl, while a leather lining band secured the textile lining to the interior of the bowl and neck-guard. Comparatively few



examples of this early type have survived, but the largest collections can be found at Hardwick Hall (National Trust) in Derbyshire and at the Royal Armouries in Leeds.

By c.1645 it seems that wartime demand necessitated a simpler design which saw nearly all extraneous features removed. Gone was the elegant neck-guard and deep brow plate. Instead, the former was made narrower while the latter lost its attractive detailing. Produced in large quantities, the contracts of supply for the New Model Army record that London's armourers supplied Parliament with 3400 harquebusier potts between April 1645 and March 1646 (March 1645 Old Style) alone. Of these, 500 are explicitly described as being of the English style - that is, with three bars. In July 1645, for instance, Parliament contracted London armourer Edward Barker for 'two hundred potts with three barres English at vii s a peece'; whilst on 26th June 1645 Sylvester Keene was charged with supplying 200 back and breastplates as well as 200 'potts English'. To cut down on cost and time, older potts were often recycled with their various parts, such as the bowl or neck-guard, being re-used wherever possible.

From 1649 further contracts were placed to supply Parliament's armies with thousands of pieces of equipment for the forthcoming campaigns in Ireland and Scotland. In the summer of 1649, the Ordnance Office was required to provide 1600 (harquebusiers') backs, breasts and potts to Captain Edward Tomlins for the forces sent to Ireland. Likewise, a further



Zischägge by Martin Schneider the Younger of Nuremberg, c.1610-20. Metropolitan Museum



English harquebusier's pott of c.1640 exhibiting the characteristic deep brow plate and wide neck-guard. Royal Armouries IV.375

1500 backs, breasts and potts were supplied in February 1649/50. Similarly, on 5 May 1650 the Council of State ordered '4,600 backs, breasts and potts to be forthwith provided for the marching army' being assembled in the north of England. This large-scale production most likely coincides with a further simplification in the helmet's design which saw it devoid of all detail and the neck-

guard and peak reduced to their most basic forms. Furthermore, the appearance of the 'A and Helmet' on many potts suggests the marking of armour was now taking place on a more regular basis. This so-called 'Commonwealth type' would remain largely unaltered until the mid-to-late 1650s when some helmets were provided with an additional pair of short horizontal bars to the face-guard. Thereafter, the three-bar pott would undergo one more transformation before falling out of use completely at the end of the 17th century.

Having remained in use for over 50 years, the English harquebusier's pott proved to be a highly successful type of helmet. Despite its simplicity and lightweight construction, it proved to be the ideal cavalry helmet, providing good protection from edged weapons without hindering the wearer's sight, respiration or hearing. Since the 19th century it has emerged as one of the most iconic and widely recognised pieces of military equipment of the 17th century and the civil wars.



The much-simplified English harquebusier's pott of the Commonwealth era. Royal Armouries IV.894

Although far removed from the more aesthetically pleasing helmets of earlier times, its appearance nonetheless attests to the changing face of war in the early modern period.

Keith Downen
Royal Armouries, Leeds

Channel 5: No Place Like Home

In Nantwich with Ben Miller

Channel 5's latest series of *No Place Like Home*, in which a celebrity is taken back to their home town to learn about historical stories and events they hadn't been aware of before, featured an episode with actor Ben Miller. He was taken back to Nantwich, where he spent his childhood, and one of the events he learned about was the Battle of Nantwich. This had taken place on 25th January 1644, and is widely regarded as a major turning point in the English civil war in Cheshire. Ben was first taken to Dorfold Hall, where he met some members of the Sealed Knot and discovered how the battle had been fought. He then changed into 17th century costume and was

guided through the steps of loading and firing a musket. This was somewhat out of his comfort zone, and he remarked 'I'm terrified – I'm the worst soldier in the history of the civil war!' Both the noise and the force of the musket were a surprise to Ben, and he exclaimed 'That scared the life out of me!'

Next, Ben was taken back to Nantwich and met Cromwell Association Council member Dr Charlotte Young at the Black Lion pub to learn about the human impact of the Battle of Nantwich. Using documents from the University of Oxford's Civil War Petitions project, she revealed the stories of Mawrice Parry and Elizabeth Blease. Mawrice was a blacksmith from Denbighshire who had been pressed into military service. During the Battle of Nantwich he was shot in the wrist, to his 'utter undoing', and he was forced to spend the rest of the civil war years living on charity because he could no longer earn his living. Elizabeth Blease was a widow, and had lost her husband Christopher during the battle. She was left to raise two children on her own, which she had done 'without being burdensome to any'.

However, in 1651 her son, who was now grown up and whom she was relying on for support as she got older, had enlisted in Colonel Daniel's army in Scotland, leaving her 'destitute of comfort'. After hearing their stories Ben commented 'It's very moving, isn't it?'

Ben was thrilled to find out that 'The Battle of Nantwich was really crucial' during the English civil wars, and gained a new appreciation for the way his home town played a key role in history.

Charlotte Young

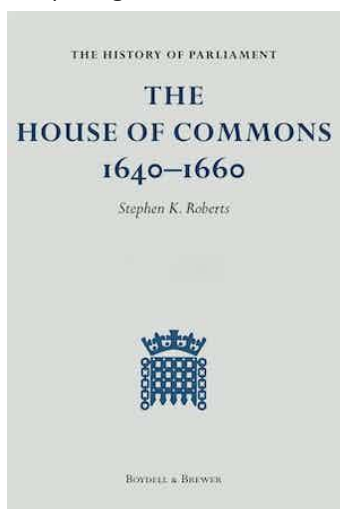


The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1640–1660



The word 'monumental' is much used and abused nowadays, not least when it comes to academics promoting their own (and their friends') publications. But few projects deserve the title more than *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons, 1640–1660*, which is due to be published by Boydell and Brewer in the summer of 2023.

A few basic facts to set the scene. *The House of Commons, 1640–1660* is in the form of a nine-volume set, with 8,500 pages of text comprising some 6.5 million words. The set provides detailed



biographies of over 1,800 MPs who sat in a variety of Parliaments and Assemblies from the Short Parliament which sat in April 1640 to the final demise of the Rump Parliament in March 1660. There are studies of over 320 parliamentary constituencies returning Members in the period, with analysis of elections. As Parliament exercised an autonomous administrative function during the 1640s, there are also articles on 22 executive

committees. An introductory survey analyses the information collected and provides a comprehensive study of Parliament in this revolutionary period.

The statistics give some sense of the scale and ambition of the project. It has involved a huge effort over many years by a small team: much of the research and writing has been done by just six historians, including the editor, Dr Stephen Roberts (a noted Cromwell scholar and vice president of the Association), who has been at the helm for 25 years. Credit must go to the Trustees (who include Jonathan Djanogly, a Trustee of the Cromwell Museum) and the Editorial Board of the History of Parliament (whose chairs have included the great civil war and Cromwell scholars Professors Gerald Aylmer and John Morrill). These two bodies have had the patience to see this project through to completion, and the skill and expertise to guide it on its way.

This is the most detailed and comprehensive reference work yet produced on the most turbulent and critical period of British history. The bulk of the volumes (seven of the nine) are made up of detailed biographies of MPs. The length of these biographies varies considerably, with minor burgesses in obscure boroughs being covered in a few hundred words, while major politicians receive substantial articles. John Pym, the dominant figure in the early years of the Long Parliament, weighs in at a shade over 50,000 words – which is over half the length of a standard academic monograph. The constituency articles make up only one volume, and these tend to be shorter than the biographies, ranging from big cities with major archives, such as London (at over 10,000 words), to tiny boroughs in far-flung regions, with no

borough records surviving, such as Callington (which struggles to make 800 words). The final volume is divided between the introductory survey and the committee articles, although many of the latter are substantial pieces. The Committee of Both Kingdoms clocks in at 28,000 words, and the Committees for the Revenue, Army and Admiralty are over 10,000 words each.

Size isn't everything of course, but it means that the articles bring to the period a wealth of detail about those who argued over, fought, and administered the war, and the regimes that followed it, that is much greater than anything previously available. There is, of course, much here to interest the Cromwellian. The article on Oliver Cromwell himself (at 44,000 words, one of the longest) covers his career in the Short and Long Parliaments, from 1640 until the closure of the Rump in April 1653. Naturally the focus is on his parliamentary activities, but not exclusively so, and his role in the broader politics of the period is also covered in lavish detail. Such an approach is completely different from the standard biographical studies of Cromwell, which focus on his military career and his revolutionary views, and the Parliament-centric focus offers a new and challenging perspective on the man who would in later years become lord protector. Crucially, those close to Cromwell during the 1640s and early 1650s – Oliver St John and Sir Henry Vane II to name but two – receive a similar depth of analysis, allowing future historians to approach Cromwell in context, rather than singling him out for special treatment which, in the early part of his career at least, he does not warrant. In this respect, the constituency article on Cambridge provides an important insight into Cromwell's election in 1640 and the extent of his local network before he was famous.

When it comes to the protectorate, Cromwell is both absent and everywhere. Naturally, when head of state he did not sit in the Commons, but the protectorate revolved around him, and this is more than reflected in these volumes. Here we find biographies of crucial figures in the new regime, including Cromwell's sons, Henry and Richard, his in-laws, Charles Fleetwood and John Disbrowe, and key councillors such as John Thurloe and John



John Pym, by George Glover after Edward Bower, 1644



The House of Lords and the House of Commons: the frontispiece to *An exact collection of all remonstrances ... and other remarkable passages between the Kings most Excellent Majesty and his high court of Parliament ... which were formerly published either by the Kings Majesties command or by order from one or both Houses of Parliament*, London, Printed for Edward Husbands, T. Warren, R. Best, 1643

Lambert. His opponents and enemies are here too, including Edmund Ludlow II, Sir Arthur Hesilrige and Sir Henry Vane II (again). But there are of course many less prominent figures as well, many of whom have never before been researched: they include protégés and comrades-in-arms from the army and surprising figures like the old royalist John Dutton, who became a friend of Cromwell in the 1650s.

The constituency volume provides another source to be plundered and quarried in years to come. The *Instrument of Government* introduced completely new constituencies, and having those covered in detail provides a huge amount of data for further analysis. Not least among these are the Irish and Scottish seats – for these were the first genuinely ‘Union’ Parliaments – and the inclusion of all the Irish and Scottish MPs, alongside their Welsh counterparts, gives a ‘British’ dimension to the volumes that will be of interest to scholars. All the active Members of Cromwell’s Other House also receive biographies.

Overall, these volumes will become an essential resource to all those interested in the period. Appearing in the familiar and prestigious History of Parliament Wedgwood blue, they will be

an acquisition that members of the Association will be proud to own, and a pleasure to handle. You can see more about the volumes on Boydell and Brewer’s special webpage devoted to them at <https://boydellandbrewer.com/history-of-parliament/>, which provides a link to a page where they can be pre-ordered. The set costs £695, which compares well with other recent multi-volume academic publications. With them, *The History of Parliament* series reaches a total of 66 volumes, providing continuous coverage of the personnel of the Westminster parliament from 1509 to 1832 – as well as 1386 to 1461.

Work in progress continues on the Commons in the late fifteenth century and the mid-nineteenth century and on the Lords in the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. In addition, the Commons 1640–1660 volumes will ultimately be joined by a parallel set covering the House of Lords from the Short Parliament to their abolition in 1649.

You can see all of the History’s published work up to 2010 on our website at <https://historyofparliamentonline.org>; more recently published volumes will also eventually be made available through the website.

Patrick Little

Other publications from The History of Parliament

<https://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/history/british-history-after-1450/house-lords-160429?format=WX>

<http://www.cambridge.org/gh/academic/subjects/history/british-history-after-1450/house-lords-16601715?format=WX>

Forthcoming events

Cromwell Association Study Day



The History of Parliament 1640–1660

Saturday 14 October 2023, 10.30am–4.00pm
Huntingdon Library, Princes Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3PA

Full details in the next edition of *The Protector's Pen*.

Price to members estimated to be c.£45

University of Oxford Day School



Parliament at War: The House of Commons and the British Revolution, 1640–1660

Saturday 27 May 2023, 9.45am–5.00pm
Online or Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA

How did parliamentary politics operate during the civil wars and Republic? This day school sheds new light on this question from the perspectives of both Westminster and the localities. It celebrates the launch in 2023 of 9 magnificent new volumes by the History of Parliament’s House of Commons 1640–1660 section. The day school reunites this project team to reflect on the project’s contribution to scholarship of the civil wars and Interregnum.

https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/parliament-at-war-the-house-of-commons-and-the-british-revolution-1640-1660#programme_details_container

Covent Garden

The first piazza in Britain, built in the 1630s



Covent Garden as it was in 1660, looking west with St. Paul's Church on the far side of the piazza

Covent Garden today is a shopping and entertainment hub in central London, with the elegant Piazza at its heart. It is home to fashion shops and craft stalls in the Apple Market, with the Royal Opera House sitting to the south-east of the complex. Street entertainers perform in front of St Paul's Church, and the London Transport Museum is situated in the north-east corner. There are many restaurants and cafes, and nearby theatres draw crowds for plays and musicals.

A recent programme on BBC 2, presented by David Olusoga, looked at the history of Covent Garden; from its origins as a market garden belonging to Westminster Abbey in the late 16th century, to its development as the first open space 'piazza' in London, and then through the many transformations (including becoming the red-light district of London

in the 18th century) followed by threats of closure and redevelopment, to the vibrant, community market we know it as today.

The streets of London developed in a largely organic and disorderly process over many centuries, with little in the way of any kind of plan or uniformity. Charles I was interested in creating areas and buildings in the capital that would rival those of the major cities on the Continent.

Early in the 17th century, Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, wanted to develop his land, known as Covent Garden, situated between Long Acre and The Strand. In medieval times it had been a market garden supplying produce for Westminster Abbey. Bedford obtained a licence from the King to develop 48 acres and commissioned the architect Inigo Jones to create a group of residential buildings and a church. Covent Garden became London's first planned suburb.

Adapted from:

<https://www.thehistoryoflondon.co.uk/the-creation-of-covent-garden/>

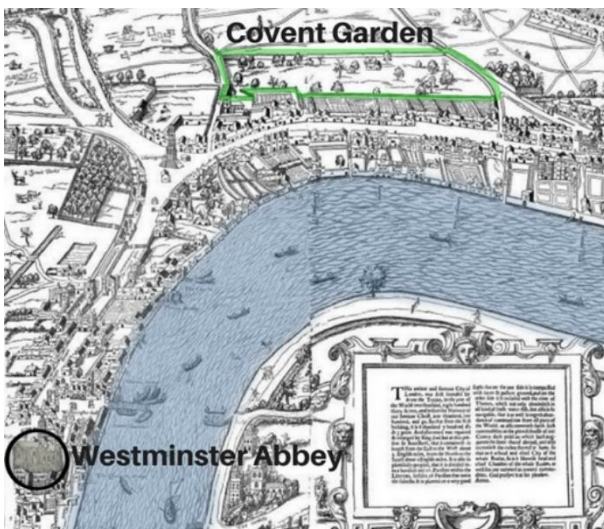
Further Reading

<https://www.thehistoryoflondon.co.uk/the-creation-of-covent-garden/>

<http://britainandbritishness.com/2017/03/10-fascinating-facts-about-covent-garden-london.html>

See also

BBC iPlayer The People's Piazza: a History of Covent Garden



Covent Garden in the City of London in the 1560s with surrounding wall

Famous people of the 17th century

Inigo Jones

(1573–1652)



Inigo Jones painted by William Hogarth in 1758 from a 1636 painting by Sir Anthony van Dyck

Born in London, Inigo Jones was the son of a Smithfield clothmaker and initially worked in the production of masques, a form of entertainment in the courts which involved ornate and decorative costume and stage design. In 1598 he travelled to Italy and it is here that he first came across the work of the great Italian architect **Andrea Palladio**, one of the masters of his time in Renaissance Italy. On his return, and after carefully studying Palladio's works, he embarked on his new career as an architect. As the Surveyor General to both James I and Charles I, he designed the Banqueting House, Whitehall; the Queen's House, Greenwich; Wilton House, Wiltshire; Covent Garden and St Paul's Church; and the Queen's Chapel at St James's Palace, London.

He undertook a great number of monumental projects, all of which were closely linked with the monarchy. Sadly, this proved ultimately to be his downfall when the English Civil War broke out and he found himself out of work; his estate was temporarily confiscated, and he was heavily fined. However, the following year he was pardoned and his estate restored.



Banqueting House, Whitehall

Cromwell Curator's Corner

Like many historic sites, we came into 2022 with some uncertainty after the pandemic, but it turned out to be a busy and successful year for us, not least as the Cromwell Museum celebrated its 60th anniversary. Cromwell's former grammar school was first opened to the public with displays and artefacts relating to his life and times on 19 October 1962 by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Harry Hylton-Foster. The celebrations on our opening at that time were perhaps overshadowed in the news as it was the same week as the Cuban Missile Crisis! The museum owed much of its origin to support from the Cromwell Association, a link which it is proud to maintain to this day.



Over the last few months we've been making a few tweaks and changes to our regular displays, with the inclusion of a few new artefacts, including a surviving carved oak beam from the house in Huntingdon in which Cromwell was born. We're very grateful to the Association for their support in enabling us to conserve and display this artefact.

Our winter exhibition on the Levellers, which opened in November in time for the 37th anniversary of the Putney Debates, has proved to be very successful. It runs until 2 April if you haven't had the opportunity to come and see it yet. Later that month the spring programme of our popular online

lecture series starts, which this season includes:

- Wednesday 19 April at 7.30pm – Professor Ted Vallance on "The Trial of Charles I: New Evidence"
- Wednesday 26 April at 7.30pm – David Flintham on "King's Lynn Under Siege: New Archaeological Discoveries"
- Wednesday 3 May at 7.30pm – Paul Lay on "Cromwell and the Jewish Community"
- Wednesday 10 May at 7.30pm – Dr Sarah Covington on "Oliver Cromwell and the Haunting of Ireland"

Tickets for these talks are on sale via the museum's website at:

www.cromwellmuseum.org

Our main summer exhibition focuses on Spying and Intelligence during the Civil Wars and will include a display of items including the recently discovered cypher from the Earl of Manchester's papers



featured in a previous issue, and artefacts kindly loaned by the Parliamentary Archives and Royal Armouries. The exhibition opens on 20 May and runs until 10 September 2023.

You can find more information on the exhibition and an associated programme of events on our website at:

www.cromwellmuseum.org,

or via our social media:

@thecromwellmuseum

@thecromwellmuseum

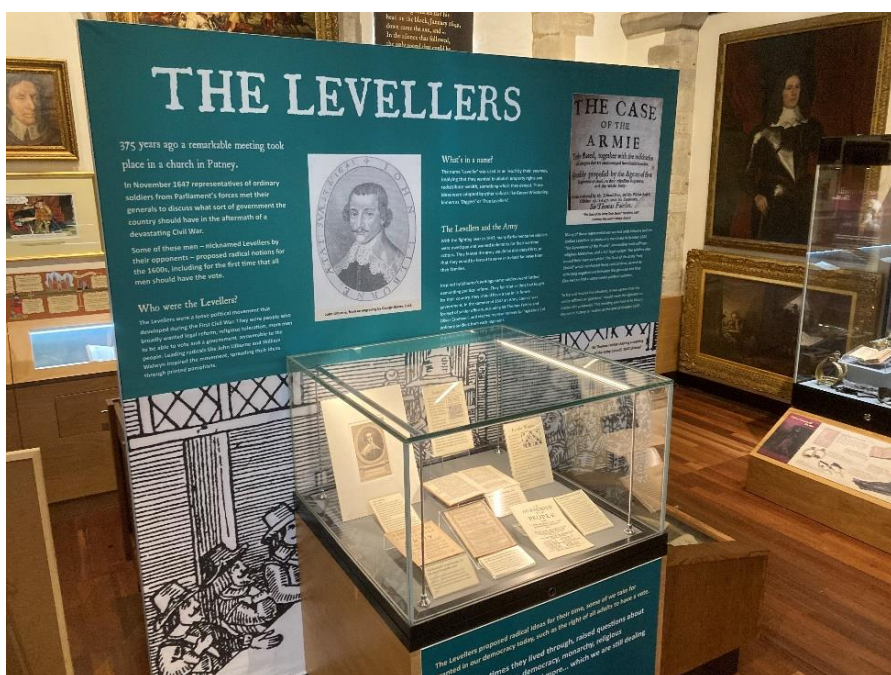
@museumcromwell

www.youtube.com/c/CromwellMuseum

As ever we hope to see you in person or via one of our online events very soon!

Stuart Orme

Curator, The Cromwell Museum



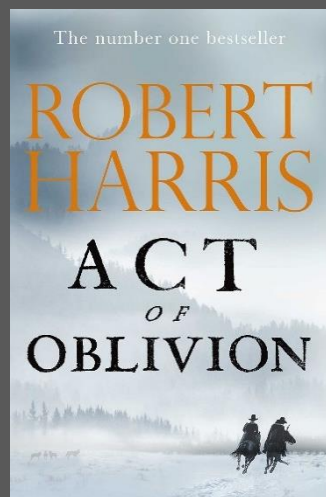
Book Reviews



Act of Oblivion

by Robert Harris

Robert Harris's fast-paced and hugely detailed book races along, jumping back and forth across the Atlantic, telling the story of the 59 regicides excluded from the Act of Oblivion. The focus is on Edward Whalley, Cromwell's cousin, and his son-in-law, William Goffe, two of the Major-Generals (although Harris makes them colonels) who escape to the Puritan settlements of New England where respect for royal authority is, at best, grudging. The privations of the two men are balanced against the trials of Frances, Will's wife (Ned's daughter), hiding in London with her five children, only rarely hearing from the men, and struggling through plague and fire as well as having to avoid the authorities.



The authorities are represented by a battle-hardened, lonely and bitter man, an invention of Harris's, called Richard Nayler. At a talk given by Harris in my local church, he said that he wanted to create the sense of a Butch Cassidy style chase. He certainly creates tension: at one point, after Nayler has sailed to America, he very nearly catches the pair as they hide in a cave. Yet I wouldn't describe the manhunt as exciting. Nayler – surely his name can't be a coincidence? This isn't a

common name so perhaps Harris is implying that his man is just as radical as the Quaker, James Nayler, who rode in Bristol on a mule in 1656 in a notorious recreation of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Nayler keeps a handkerchief stained with the King's blood close to his heart; he becomes obsessed with the hunt for Whalley and Goffe, stopping at nothing – even murder – in his quest to find them. It is hard to say who is the most radical, the most desperate, the most 'sinful' of the three of them. At his talk, Harris said that it was important to him to write about people in the past as human beings – yet at several points I felt he had dehumanised Nayler, making him a pantomime villain. Even Hyde dislikes him. At one point when Nayler calls Goffe a fanatic, Hyde answers, 'Well, I believe he has met his match in you'. Later, a contact in New England says of him 'The man had seemed half crazed ... he certainly would not want to be hunted by such a Fury.' Finally, his bullying and deception of Frances Goffe is deeply unpleasant.

Yet Whalley and Goffe don't get off lightly either. Harris says he started the book a Parliamentarian and ended it a Royalist. Throughout their trials, Goffe remains wedded to the religious ideals of his youth, but Ned, although recalling his heyday with great fondness, begins to question their past actions. He begins to ask if Cromwell really was so selfless. After several years of evading Nayler, in 1666 Ned loses faith in the second coming of

Jesus, much to his son-in-law's consternation. Harris imagines Ned writing his doubts in his memoirs, allowing him to write 'it occurred to Ned that the King had died exactly as the regicides had many years later – in the absolute certainty that he was right'. Is this Harris imaging Ned's thoughts, or perhaps Harris himself making his point?

This was my concern with the book. Harris says he spends six months researching and six months writing each book. Despite the richness of some of the descriptions (the Fire is especially well evoked), I felt he was taking too many liberties with the facts, even for a novelist. Harris's Charles I is a gentle and sympathetic soul, his Cromwell is irascible and flinty. Clearly, Harris warmed more to the old soldier Whalley than the young religious radical, Goffe. These issues could be ignored given the book is a novel, yet there are many anomalies that jar – Whalley recalls playing as a child with Cromwell among the pink rhododendrons of Hinchbrook: yet these plants weren't introduced until the 18th century. Nayler talks about his 'black dog' that had plagued him since youth – yet this term wasn't at this time used to mean depression; in fact in the 17th century it meant counterfeit coin! And members of the Association would surely bridle at Whalley's description of the Naseby battlefield as 'flat'.

Yet for all that, the story is told well, in bright and lucid language, with lashings of tension and suspense. His trio of men have all been damaged by their past and carry their wounds irrevocably. I would say that Harris has indeed written about these people as human beings, with all their flaws and beliefs. It is an interesting and engaging read, and perhaps the flaws make it even more thought-provoking.

Serrie Meakins

Robert Harris, *Act of Oblivion*, 464pp, Penguin, 2023, ISBN 978-1529160321, Paperback (released 8 June 2023) £9.99



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001h3zx/episodes/guide>

Editor's Note: Details on: *An Act of Free and General Pardon, Indemnity, and Oblivion* can be found at:

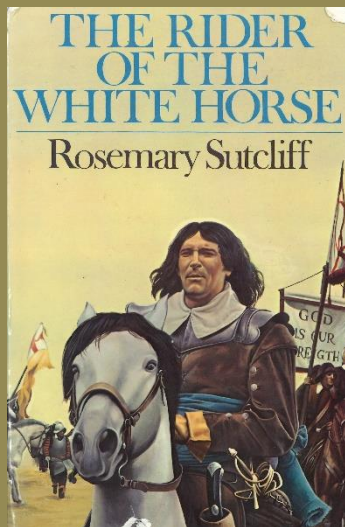
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/statutes-realm/vol5/pp226-234>

On my bookshelf



The Rider of the White Horse by Rosemary Sutcliff

Originally published 1959



Like many people, one of the ways my passion for history was ignited as a kid was by the novels of Rosemary Sutcliff. My gateway into these was her best-known book *The Eagle of the Ninth*, a story of high adventure set in Roman Britain around the (alleged) disappearance of the Ninth Legion, later adapted faithfully as a BBC children's series, then a dreadful Hollywood movie. I first read this in 1982 at the age of 10 and it started an interest in Roman history which has persisted ever since. Sutcliff's novel *Song for a Dark Queen* (1978) is still for my money one of the best fictional depictions of Boudica's rebellion.

These, like most of her 60 or so published novels, were intended primarily for children or young adults, as was her 1953 novel *Simon* set during the civil war (reviewed in this column previously). Sutcliff only wrote three or four novels aimed more for an adult audience, of which *Rider of the White Horse* is the best. It's also the novel that first got me interested in the civil war at about the age of 13 when I borrowed it from my local library.

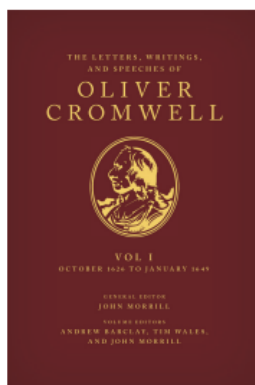
The novel focuses on the story of Sir Thomas Fairfax, following his story from the eve of the civil war. It starts with Charles I's stay in York and Fairfax's attempt to present a petition to the King at the meeting on Heworth Moor, through the unequal fight in Yorkshire including the storming of Leeds and siege of Bradford, culminating in Marston Moor and concluding with 'Black Tom' being appointed as commander of the New Model Army. It's unusual for the time in which it was written in that it presents Fairfax as the protagonist and key figure (rather than assuming as usual that everything was down to Cromwell) and presenting the Parliamentary cause in a sympathetic light, given that much of the romantic fiction of the 1950s set in the 1640s idolised dashing cavaliers. Much of this novel is told from the perspective of Fairfax's wife Anne, which not only helps to ground the story but provide a much more human perspective on its characters. The domestic life and detail of the period is pretty accurate, the pen portraits of the various historical figures convincing, and the occasional battle scenes – the barricades of Bradford or cavalry charges at Marston – excitingly conveyed. It also has a portrayal of Cromwell – who appears for the first time at Hull about two-thirds of the way through – which is amongst my favourites and has always stuck in my head as a complex and charismatic depiction of 'Old Noll'.

It's sad that it's long been out of print, last available in the 1980s, unlike many of Sutcliff's better-known novels which can always be found in your local bookshop. Second hand copies aren't cheap – I was lucky and found one some years ago in a book sale. If nothing else, it's always struck me that it would make a great film: an accessible hero, characters, and a story set against the background of great events, and could easily be filmed in way that (aside from Marston Moor) wouldn't need a cast of thousands. Any film producers out there interested?

Stuart Orme

Rosemary Sutcliff, *The Rider of the White Horse*, 320pp, Hodder & Stoughton, 1959

The Letters, Writings, and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell



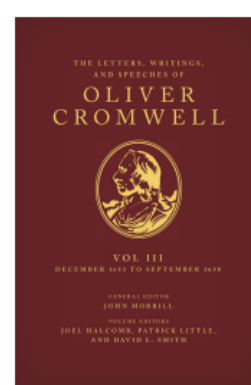
Volume I: October 1626 to January 1649

November 2022 | Hardback
9780199587889 | 784 pages
£190.00 | \$245.00



Volume II: 1 February 1649 to 12 December 1653

November 2022 | Hardback
9780199587896 | 896 pages
£190.00 | \$245.00



Volume III: 16 December 1653 to 2 September 1658

November 2022 | Hardback
9780199580460 | 688 pages
£190.00 | \$245.00

Oliver Cromwell, one of Britain's greatest and most controversial generals, rose from lowly provincial origins to preside over the trial and execution of a king, to undertake the most complete conquest of Ireland and Scotland ever achieved, and to spend the last five years of his life as head of state, as Lord Protector of Britain and Ireland. A passionate speaker who claimed to be called by God to overthrow tyranny in church and state, and a powerful advocate for a very broad religious liberty and equality, his speeches and letters reveal the public and the private man more completely than for almost any other early modern political leader.

These new editions not only publish a number of new items, but also edit a large number from recovered originals not previously edited. Every item has its own detailed introduction explaining the status of the text and its context or contexts, but also very full annotation - identifying for example almost every person, place and event mentioned in the text and also - where there is no holograph but also variant copies - all significant differences between variant early copies.



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Protector's Pen Quiz

Quiz: Battlefield Walk – March 2023

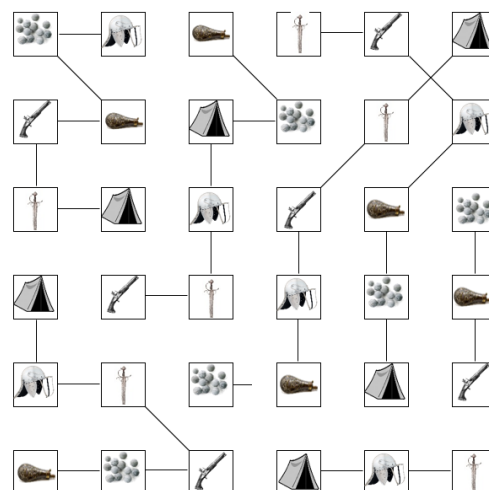
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T	W	N	O	W	A	H	C	N	W	O	N
R	I	A	L	E	L	O	V	E	A	D	D
O	C	K	B	L	G	R	A	W	D	K	W
P	G	I	R	P	P	I	L	T	O	C	A
A	N	D	G	E	R	R	N	O	D	D	Y
L	D	G	D	E	O	O	M	B	R	A	D
O	R	E	M	G	R	E	E	N	N	W	O
F	L	H	A	H	N	R	R	C	W	C	E
Y	A	I	L	L	T	U	O	H	I	N	B
B	A	N	D	I	Y	D	P	C	T	N	Y
E	S	E	G	R	B	E	R	I	W	A	N

Moving from letter to adjacent letter (no diagonal moves), create a continuous path of Battlefields in chronological order through the 1640s - visiting each square only once.

Start in the shaded square.

One battle stands out, why?

Answer: Bit of a mix up – July 2022



Exhibitions and Events

A few links have been provided below to some websites should you wish to look up further details on forthcoming events as they are announced:

NCWC, Newark	http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/events/
English Civil War Society	http://www.ecws.org.uk/
Worcester Commandery	http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/
Cromwell Museum	http://www.cromwellmuseum.org/
Cromwell's House, Ely	http://visately.org.uk/cromwell/oliver-cromwells-house
Battlefields Trust	http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/default.asp
Sealed Knot	http://www.thesealedknot.org.uk/
Scottish Battlefields Trust	http://www.scottishbattlefields.org/events-1
John Hampden Society	https://www.johnhampden.org/
Pike and Shot Society	https://www.pikeandshotsociety.org/



'Better than finding gold': towers' remains may rewrite history of English civil war

When archaeologists working on the route of HS2 began excavating a stretch of pasture in Coleshill, Warwickshire, they were not expecting to uncover what one of them calls 'the highlight of our careers'. Their excavations revealed the monumental stone bases of two towers from a late medieval fortified gatehouse, the existence of which had been completely lost to history.

While that find was remarkable in itself, the ruins were even more significant than they first appeared – and might even rewrite the history of the English civil war.

Peppering the sandstone walls were hundreds of pockmarks made by musket balls and pistol shot, showing that the building had come under heavy fire. Experts think this may be evidence that the gatehouse was shot at by parliamentarian troops heading to the nearby Battle of Curdworth Bridge in August 1642, which would make this the scene of the very first skirmish of the civil war.



The excavations at Coleshill Manor, Warwickshire, revealed the stone bases of two towers from a late medieval fortified gatehouse. Photograph: HS2

Guardian, 21 January 2023

Rare letter written by Oliver Cromwell auctioned in Edinburgh

A rare letter written by Oliver Cromwell in 1648 was sold at an online auction in Edinburgh by Auction House Lyon & Turnbull on 28th September 2022 for over £17k.

The letter was written to fellow parliamentarian Richard Norton, an old friend who he fondly knew as 'Idle Dick'. Written in the spring of 1648, in the midst of the country's descent into renewed civil war, the letter contains detailed instructions relating to the proposed marriage of Cromwell's son Richard to Dorothy, daughter of Hampshire gentleman Richard Major.



LOT 51 - CROMWELL, OLIVER (1599-1658), LORD PROTECTOR OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED TO RICHARD NORTON (1615-1691), 3RD APRIL 1648

Sold for £17,640